

News Release

Contact: Kristen Gilbert, Alamosa/Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge Complex
(719) 589-4021

*National Wildlife
Refuge System*

CELEBRATE NEARLY A CENTURY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DURING



Alamosa/Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge Complex Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week --October 14-18, 2003-- in the San Luis Valley.

Media Contact: Kristen Gilbert, (719) 589-4021 X 228

Refuge Week closes a year of national celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System's Centennial. **National Wildlife Refuge Week is October 14-18, 2003 and will be celebrated at both Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges. Below is a list of activities for the whole family.**

Guided Sandhill Crane Walks (Tuesday –Friday at 5:45 pm)

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge supports thousands of Sandhill Cranes on their fall migration south. The refuge will be having evening walks to watch cranes fly into a roost for the evening. Don't miss this once a year wildlife viewing opportunity. **Call to reserve a spot today (719) 589-4021**

Alamosa NWR Open House at Lilipop Ranch (Saturday, October 18 from noon –3:30 pm)

In 1963 The Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge was created to support migratory birds in the San Luis Valley. In 2003 the Alamosa Refuge acquired 800 acres of river and wetland habitat to help protect the endangered southwestern willow catcher. Come celebrate our last forty years at our new administrative offices, the former Lilipop Ranch. Tour the new property, talk to Refuge staff, and snack on appetizers and cake. **Directions:** Take HWY 160 east of Alamosa, turn right on Adams Lane follow road over rail road tracks, the road veers left. Follow road to end. **Address:** 8249 Emperius Road, Alamosa CO 81101.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.